

THE JOURNAL

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Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute... CHARES C. PINCKNEY.

THE TRAGEDY OF VERDUN

THE battle of Verdun has passed its twenty-fourth day. The fighting has already continued eight times as long as Gettysburg, the greatest battle of the Civil war.

Nobody will ever know the terrific toll in life at Verdun. It has already become the greatest battle known to human history.

At that time, the losses had already exceeded the great French offensive of last September at Champagne.

All accounts agree that there has never been a cannonade comparable to that at Verdun. In no other war was there such monster guns and howitzers.

A glowing tribute was paid yesterday by Mrs. Edward McDowell, wife of the noted American composer, to the work of the Portland Symphony orchestra.

DRIVING A BARGAIN

WILLIAM SPROULE, president of the Southern Pacific company, issued a signed statement at San Francisco March 10 defining the position of the company in reference to the Oregon & California land grant.

There is a considerable quantity of this land, at least 400,000 acres which cannot be sold at any price, hence the amount that could be realized by sales would be something like \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 at the utmost.

LAWYERS AND CHILDREN

THE school board's legal advisers have delivered themselves of an opinion that "no business transactions" should be permitted on the school premises.

DEMANDING OREGON'S DUE

WITH but one dissenting vote, the 75 school directors of Umatilla county have voted a demand that 40 per cent of the proceeds from sale of the grant lands be set aside for the schools of the state.

The Benton county court has wired the committee at Washington urging 40 per cent for schools and 40 per cent for roads, and has asked the county courts in all land grant counties to take similar action.

Benton county has been held up for more than 20 years in development by action of the railroad company in refusing sales of and settlement of these lands.

It is a truthful presentation of the facts. The railroad raised the price of the lands beyond reasonable limits, and that held back sale and settlement.

Strangely enough, the federal government stood by and looked unconcerned on while every term of the grant was thus violated.

By the process, Benton county development was held back. Lane county development was held back. Development was held back in Douglas county and Josephine county and Jackson county and all the other grant land counties as well as in the state.

As the Benton county telegram to the Washington committee says, if Congress grants 40 per cent to Oregon schools and 40 per cent to roads from sale of the lands it will only in a measure be a recompense for Oregon losses directly due to the failure of the federal government to enforce law and the act of the railroad in withholding the lands from sale.

For these all sufficient reasons, the terms of the Chamberlain bill ought to stand. The federal government owes it to Oregon to let them stand.

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Mr. Blair, the company's attorney, before the public lands committee at Washington, said he was authorized by his company to relinquish all claim to the grant for \$10,000,000.

The registration books will close April 18. Is your name on the roll?

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NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PORTLAND

HERE is but one leather belt factory on the North Pacific coast, and it is located in Portland.

It does a business of \$150,000 a year, bringing the money to this city from points in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, California and our own commonwealth.

It recently constructed a 60-inch-wide leather belt for the National Lumber & Manufacturing company of Hoquiam, Wash., which contained all the belting leather there was in the hides of 500 steers, and was worth \$150 a pound.

It supplies practically all the important sawmills in the states named with its product.

It has a payroll of \$20,000 a year, and the families of its 16 employees number 100 persons.

Its office and factory are at 240-250 Hawthorne avenue, adjoining the east approach to the Hawthorne bridge, and it occupies more than 6000 square feet of space.

There are a good many other young men not far from suicide because of poverty and the misery that comes from it.

The Bible says in its wisdom that "the destruction of the poor is their poverty." The old Hebrew writers agreed with the modern economist that vice, disease and by far the larger part of the world's sin flow from poverty.

We can carry this line of thought a step farther. If some plan could be devised to pay our working people the wages they really earn they could buy the whole manufacturing output of the country and consume it.

If the first chief had more horse sense, the situation in Mexico would be less delicate.

THE NEW SUCCESS

MR. BRANDEIS has written a letter which sets up a standard for business that may be disconcerting to some people.

Mr. Brandeis goes on to say that real success in business is like the success of a great artist, scientist or statesman who satisfies his own ambitions by enhancing the happiness of mankind.

The old idea of trade made it too much like war. It was a deed of spoliation rather than a mutual benefit.

SMALL CHANGE

One way to come to the defense of your country, is to register.

At any rate, our trouble in Mexico, is only a slight one compared with what Europe is up against.

They grow hemp in Mexico, and the trouble that the Mexicans don't patronize home industries.

The call for workers in all parts of the country indicates that this is going to be a hard year for loafers.

Now that the German nutcracker is squeezing Verdun, we learn from London that it is only a dried-up nut, and that the big fight will result only in a coming victory.

However, the automobile owner's wife doesn't have to pay drug store prices for gasoline every time she wants to clean a pair of gloves.

Those United States senators who feasted on the Columbia may be expected to pay some attention to the Columbia's possibilities—especially when they are hungry.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Communication sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written in plain English and must be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor.

"Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It rubs principles of all false sanctity and throws them out into the gutter where they belong."

Editorial comment on Tuesday's Journal under the caption "Micaeber's Philosophy." This statement, attributed to a "Socialist orator," "We Socialists have no plan and no program," stripped as it is of its context, can be twisted to mean anything or nothing.

Those outside the Socialist faith have but one hope and that is that the Socialist party should be so completely and so thoroughly defeated that they will "get theirs." Why submit plans and specifications to people to build something they are determined not to do?

The facts in this matter are as follows: Each American citizen living in Vancouver is expected to register with the American consul general in this city every 12 months.

THE Proprietor's Responsibility. Portland, March 15.—To the Editor of The Journal: In answer to the Cottage Grove man who believes the Malthusian theory a discard, I would say that the foremost economists reaffirm the statement of Malthus that population tends to increase more rapidly than man's ability to create food.

PUNITIVE EXPEDITION—NOT WAR

CHICAGO HERALD: The decision to send a punitive expedition to Mexico and his gang to their lair and for all time his murderous depredations on American lives and property will be approved by the entire country.

It is the time for the Carranza government to cooperate wholly and zealously in whatever measures may be devised to solve the principal part of the problem in the large part of northern Mexico—the existence of Francisco Villa.

The motives inspiring Villa's continued crimes against Americans are no doubt mixed. There is the savage desire for vengeance and a religious vision with men of Villa's type.

But even this suspicion will not close the pocketbooks of Oregonians against the deceptive stuff imported from eastern factories.

But motives are immaterial. It is the fruit of them that must be dealt with. Villa the savage, the outlaw, the murderer, the border raider, must be stopped dead in his tracks.

The country will approve of the limitation of the military movement. We do not want a war with Mexico.

Between those incidents and the Jelliberate invasion of American soil culminating in an attack upon an American citizen, the interest of the people draw a sharp distinction.

OMAHA WORLD HERALD: Few, from the beginning, have believed that the American people would be the creator. It has long been a matter of common knowledge that conflicting and their parents disclaimed any responsibility for their coming; the children were sent to God, and they turned out to be idiots.

Mr. Wendling Sends Correction. Vancouver, B. C., March 8.—To the Editor of The Journal:—In recent editions of your paper there have appeared articles concerning a letter which I addressed to John B. Coffey, county clerk of Multnomah county, Portland, Or., in connection with a request for a birth certificate.

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THE Oregon Railroad Lands. From the San Francisco Chronicle. The Southern Pacific company offers to relinquish all claim to 2,800,000 acres of its Oregon land grant for \$10,000,000 and a release from its obligation to transport troops and government property.

Let Us Pray. "I believe in preparedness. I think that we should build such a navy, and have such an army that we can go and sink every one of every other country clear down to the bottom of the ocean."—Billy Sunday.

WHAT would the irrigation, drainage and rural credits conference at Salem last week have been without Senator Garland of Lebanon?

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THE ONCE OVER

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON—coming up Sixth street—I saw a line of people—sticking their heads out of the window—of the Columbia theatre.

And she smiled at me—across the street. "And I suppose she was smiling at everybody else."

And I got my ticket. "And handed it to the grand duke—at the door."

And I sat down—to watch Billie—flitting over the screen—like April sunshine.

And then I stood up—to let a woman get out—with her baby.

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STORIES OF STREET AND TOWN

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THE HOME-GROWN MUFF

I saw a flower open in gray time. With dainty petals, crimson tinted. Its roots were moistened by the showers of April.

I saw a child with wondrous hair. And wondrous eyes like diamonds gleaming. She took the flower to a home—she filled that home with light, like sunshine streaming.

I saw an angel, radiant as the light. That shone across the ripples of the child. Upon a golden aureole, I saw her smile. And as she wrote, she smiled.

I believe in preparedness. I think that we should build such a navy, and have such an army that we can go and sink every one of every other country clear down to the bottom of the ocean."—Billy Sunday.

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